

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) Process for conservation of a cellulosic material, comprising a treatment wherein said cellulosic material is contacted with a stabilising agent, and at least one of the cellulosic material or the stabilising agent is cooled before and/or during the treatment.
2. (Original) Process according to claim 1, wherein at least one of the cellulosic material or the stabilising agent is cooled to a temperature which is less than 20°C.
3. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 2, wherein the temperature is from -50°C to 0°C, ~~preferably from -20°C to -5°C.~~
4. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 2 ~~or 3~~, wherein the treatment is carried out at ~~said temperature~~ a temperature which is less than 20°C.
5. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the cellulosic material and the stabilising agent have substantially the same temperature as they are being contacted.
6. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein the stabilising agent is ~~selected from fibre strengtheners, sizing agents, antioxidants, biocides and/or deacidification agents~~ comprises a fibre strengthener, sizing agent, antioxidant, biocide or deacidification agent or mixtures thereof.
7. (Currently amended) Process according ~~claims~~ Claim 6, wherein the stabilising agent is a deacidification agent.
8. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 7, wherein the deacidification agent comprises a base ~~selected from which is a~~ basic alkaline earth metal derivative ~~derivatives, in particular magnesium or calcium compounds or salts.~~
9. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 7 ~~or 8~~, wherein the deacidification agent comprises a solvent wherein said solvent is an alcohol, selected from alcohols, in particular

~~having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and non-halogenated~~ hydrocarbon solvent, ~~or halogenated hydrocarbon solvents or ethers~~ solvent, or ether.

10. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 7 ~~anyone of claims 7 to 9~~, wherein the deacidification agent comprises a hydrofluoroalkane, ~~preferably selected from HFC-227ea and HFC-134a~~.

11. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 10, wherein the deacidification agent is a composition ~~of~~ comprising magnesium propylcarbonate, propanol and HFC-227ea.

12. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 11~~, wherein the treatment is carried out for a duration of from 1 to 50 hours.

13. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the cellulosic material is not dried before the treatment.

14. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 12~~, wherein the cellulosic material is dried before the treatment ~~so that it loses~~ such that the drying results in a reduction of about 1% or 2% ~~of~~ moisture content weight by weight.

15. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 14~~, which comprises [[:]]

- (a) cooling the stabilising agent; and
- (b) contacting the cellulosic material and the stabilising agent cooled in step (a). ~~in step (a), preferably in a treatment chamber which has optionally been cooled before introducing the cellulosic material;~~
- (c) ~~optionally, separating excess quantities of stabilising agent or constituents of the stabilising agent from the cellulosic material;~~
- (d) ~~optionally, recovering excess quantities or constituents separated in step (c).~~

16. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 14~~, which comprises

- (a) providing a treatment chamber equipped with a cooling device, which treatment chamber is cooled before the treatment;
- (b) introducing cooled cellulosic material into the treatment chamber; and
- (c) supplying the optionally cooled stabilising agent to said treatment chamber so as to contact the stabilising agent with the cellulosic material. [[:]]
- ~~(d) optionally, separating excess quantities of stabilising agent or constituents of the stabilising agent from the cellulosic material;~~
- ~~(e) optionally, recovering excess quantities or constituents separated in step (d).~~

17. (Currently amended) Process according to Claim 1 ~~anyone of claims 1 to 14~~, which comprises

- (a) cooling the cellulosic material and optionally cooling the stabilising agent; and
- (b) contacting the cellulosic material cooled in step (a) and the stabilising agent optionally cooled in step (a) in a treatment chamber. [[:]]
- ~~(c) optionally, separating excess quantities of stabilising agent or constituents of the stabilising agent from the cellulosic material;~~
- ~~(d) optionally, recovering excess quantities or constituents separated in step (c).~~

18. (Original) Process according to claim 17, whereby the treatment chamber is not cooled in step (b).

19. (Currently amended) Process according to claim 17 ~~or claim 18~~, wherein both cellulosic material and stabilizing agent are cooled prior to contacting them in the treatment chamber.

20. (New) Process according to Claim 2 wherein the temperature is from -20°C to -5°C.

21. (New) Process according to Claim 8 wherein the base comprises magnesium or calcium compounds or salts.
22. (New) Process according to Claim 9 wherein the deacidification agent comprises an alcohol solvent having 1 to 4 carbon atoms.
23. (New) Process according to Claim 10 wherein the deacidification agent comprises HFC-227ea or HFC-134a.
24. (New) Process according to Claim 10 wherein the deacidification agent is a composition comprising magnesium propylcarbonate, propanol and HFC-134a.
25. (New) Process according to Claim 15 which further comprises contacting the cellulosic material and the stabilising agent in a treatment chamber which has been cooled before introducing the cellulosic material.
26. (New) Process according to Claim 15 which further comprises separating excess quantities of stabilising agent or constituents of the stabilising agent from the cellulosic material.
27. (New) Process according to Claim 26 which further comprises recovering said separated excess quantities or constituents.
28. (New) Process according to Claim 16 which further comprises separating excess quantities of stabilising agent or constituents of the stabilising agent from the cellulosic material.
29. (New) Process according to Claim 28 which further comprises recovering said separated excess quantities or constituents.
30. (New) Process according to Claim 16 wherein the stabilising agent is cooled prior to being supplied to the treatment chamber.
31. (New) Process according to Claim 17 which further comprises separating excess quantities of stabilising agent or constituents of the stabilising agent from the cellulosic material.

32. (New) Process according to Claim 31 which further comprises recovering said separated excess quantities or constituents.